Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SSO-00 /039 W
----------074167 111319Z /23
O 111058Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7083
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3102

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT8 PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: NIGERIAN AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS

1. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT THE HELICOPER

WHICH THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE USES FOR VIP TRAVEL IS A SA330 PUMA, DESCRIBED ON PAGES 41-42 OF JANES "ALL THE WORLD'S AIRCRAFT". WE BELIEVE IT SEATS ABOUT NINE PASSENGERS.

2. IN ADDITION TO THIS PUMA WITH ELITE PASSENGER CONFIGURATION, THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE HAS PURCHASED FIVE NEW ADDITIONAL PUMAS AND THEY ARE AT THE LAGOS AIRPORT. THESE ARE NOT CONFIGURED FOR VIP TRAVEL AND CARRY 16 PASSENGERS. THE ONLY OTHER NAF HELICPTERS ARE SMALL WITH VIRTUALLY NO PASSENGER CAPACITY.

3. THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE VIP TRANSPORT OPERATION HAS OPERATED SAFELY AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED. HOWEVER THERE WAS ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF A 1976 ACCIDENT WHEN A PUMA IN LANDING AT A MIG -21 CRASH SITE TOPPLED OVER ONTO ITS SIDE.
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